A vessel had been observed in the afternoon a little distance from the shore but this was not so uncommon as to claim any particular attention. In this case however it was that of an enemy. In the evening the large oven, had been heated with a blazing fire, and this light served as a beacon to the marauders. Late in the evening, the choice rye-and-indian bread, pumpkin pies, &c. were drawn from the oven, and left smoking hot when the family retired to bed. Quietly a door was removed from the hinges, and in walked the unwelcome visitors. What could be more grateful to the wretches than the contents of that oven spread in profusion around them? and, "nothing loth", they pardoned the whole batch. Nor did they stop here; they took beds and bedding, clothing, and indeed every thing which their rapacity suggested, and then added to their insolence, by demanding that the good farmer, himself, should go on board their craft, which they had left near the shore, and pilot her into the Vineyard Sound. He had no alternative but to go, and after an absence of a few days, he returned to his distressed family. His wife was a woman of indomitable perseverance, and she sustained herself throughout the lonliness of that memorable night, and after surveying their rifled tenement, cast around her that she might repair the ravages as best she could. Her friends did not forget her necessity, and she had cause to remember their kindness, even though she was heard to say, that "the loss of her twenty pair of sheets was never wholly repaired."

And now for another tradition, received directly from the individual to whom the narrator addressed it, and which is introduced as illustrative of the great physical power of the women of that day. Matthew Jenkins was a near neighbor to Nathaniel Gardner, who was the grandson of Nathaniel Gardner Senr. In that day the neighbors were very intimate and free with each other. During one of his calls, the former enquired of the wife of the latter, "how her mother was", who lived at a distance of three miles. She replied - "I have not seen her for several weeks, as we have no horse now." What!

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rejoined Jenkins, "dost thou need a horse to go there, so short a distance? I dont know what we are coming to. Why, when I was an apprentice to thy grandfather, Mary Bunker after getting breakfast for the men and seeing them off to plough, set out on foot to visit Ann Allen at Cambridge. After calling at Stephen Hussey's for his wife, and proceeding to town for Abigail Gardner, who took her child with her, they went on together to Cambridge; and after making a visit there, they all returned home, on foot, the same night; and now thou cant go three miles without a horse. Why, if things keeps on, the women will soon want a horse and calash to ride to bed". And now a word of explanation. Nathaniel Gardner's wife whom Matthew Jenkins addressed, was the Ruth Gardner named in the Preface; Ann Allen was the wife of Edward Senr; of Martha Hussey we have already spoken. She then lived near the site of the "Beacon light". Abigail Gardner was the wife of Nathaniel Senr, to whom Matthew Jenkins when a youth, had been an apprentice; and the child she took with her, was probably her son Abel. The distance travelled that day by Mary Bunker, could not have been less than 22 miles! She died in 1729 in her 81st. year.

And now a word for her husband. Their marriage was the 11th April 1669 and their children numbered eight sons and five daughters. Most of these are worthy of a particular notice, but we must pass on. The sons were among the expert whalemen of that distant period, and of their father it was said, years after he was gone, that "he had steered every son to the killing of a whale". The children were —

Daniel	— married		
George	— "	Deborah Coffin daughter of James Senr	
John	"		
Jonathan	"	Elizabeth Coffin daughter of James Senr	
Peleg	"	Susanna Coffin " " Stephen Senr	
Jabez	"	Hannah Gardner " " Nathaniel Senr	
Thomas	"	Priscilla Arthur " Geo. " Daughter John Gardner Senr	
Benjamin	"	Deborah Paddack	
Mary	"	Tristram Coffin at the Vineyard	
Abigail	"	Nathaniel Paddack	

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Jane — married — Shubael Pinkham son of Richard
Christian " Robert-Wilson and Isaac Coleman

William Bunker's family generally attended ~~family generally attended~~ friends Meetings. Benjamin's wife was the daughter of Zachary Paddack of Yarmouth, a family connected with the Presbyterian church, and she being attached to the rituals of that body of Christians, and still adhering to these, on her coming to Nantucket ~~xxx~~ continued her association with those of a kindred spirit, and as a consequence her husband rode first to her place of worship and having left her, he proceeded to the Friends meeting. Thus a mutual toleration, begat a spirit of enquiry, which resulted in her connecting herself with the society of Friends, among whom she was afterwards recognized as a dearly beloved and approved Minister. Their children were four sons, who survived their father. He died in 1721. His widow married Jonathan Folger son of John Senr for her second husband. She died in 1750.

John Swain,

as we have before said, was the son of Richard, and he probably came at the same time his father's family removed to the island. Previous to this, he married Mary, the daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Weyer, and after living for a number of years at the western part of the island, he removed to the eastern, and settled in Polpis. Here he resided when Thomas Story visited the island, and made the following record on the 17th of 5 Mo. 1704.

"This evening we ascended toward the upper part of the island, to John Swain's (one who came to our meetings, and there was only one more, that is, Stephen Hussey, in all that island, under our name,) and there we met with a great number of Indians and other people together, having been raising a timber house for him."

The children of John and Mary Swain were —

Mary — married — Joseph Nason.

John — married — Experience Folger
Stephen "
Sarah " Joseph Norton
Joseph " Mary Sibley of Salem
Elizabeth " Joshua Scottle
Benjamin " Mary Taylor
Hannah " Joseph Tallman
Patience " Samuel Gardner

John Swain Senr died in 1715. His son John was the first English male child born on Nantucket, who continued his residence there.

Thomas Barnard

never resided on Nantucket. His son Nathaniel came to the island, and assumed his fathers right as Proprietor. He married Mary, the daughter of his Uncle Robert Barnard, of whom we shall speak hereafter. In a biographical notice of Nathaniel, by Nathaniel Starbuck Junr, we learn that the former was held in high estimation by those living contemporary with him. He died 1718.

Their children

Mary — married — John Folger
Hannah "
John " Sarah Macy
Nathaniel " Elizabeth, widow of Peter Coffin 2d and daughter of Nathaniel Starbuck Senr; Dorcas Manning and Judith Folger.
Stephen — married xxxxx Hopcott
Sarah " xxxxx Currier an Eastern man
Eleanor " Ebenezer Coffin, son of James Senr.
Benjamin " Judith Gardner daughter of Nathaniel Senr
Ebenezer " Mary Smith widow of Jonn & daughter of Stephen Hussey
Abigail " Abraham Chase of Marthas Vineyard.

All of the name of Barnard descend from the above Nathaniel.

Peter Coffin,

son of Tristram Senr married Abigail Starbuck daughter of Edward They did not remove to the island.

Christopher Hussey

came from the county of Surrey in England in company with the family of Stephen Batchelder, whose daughter Theodate he married in Lynn, Mass. where their son Stephen was born, who was the second child born in that place. ~~He~~ The father was a sea faring man, said to be cast-away on the coast of Florida and murdered by the Indians. The first of his family that resided here was his son Stephen Hussey, of whom we shall speak hereafter, who married ~~Martha Bunker~~, daughter of ~~George Bunker~~. All of the name of Hussey descend from this individual. ~~The family of Stephen Hussey are given hereafter~~.

Stephen Greenleaf

married Elizabeth Coffin, daughter of Tristram Senr. They resided in Boston Mass. He sold his share to his brother in law Nathaniel Starbuck Senr.

William Pile

sold his interest on the island to Reuben Swain and William Bunker and his sisters.

Thomas Mayhew's

residence, as we have before said, was at the Vineyard, and there he continued to the time of his death.

Of the above ten proprietors, only four came to the island to reside. The others however took an interest in the early organization of the company and lent their aid to advance the general good. Their share of the island was either conveyed to members of their own family, or passed into the hands of new comers, of whom we shall speak hereafter. It became an object with the proprietors to induce others ~~to come~~ and settle among them, particularly mechanics, seamen, and those whose practical knowledge was so much needed in an infant colony. As an inducement each of the ten proprietors agreed to divide their shares into two parts,

X Sarah Barnard's Book has the following — viz,

"The right of Wm Pile was sold to Richd Swain as per deed

R. Swain conveyed 1/2 thereof to Nath Bolter, & the other half to his son in law W. Bunker & his daughters in law Mary, Ann, & Martha as by Deed dated 18th of 4th mo. ? 1667.

Also Nath Bolter sold his 1/20 to John Bishop & J. B to Peleg Coffin son of Tristram.

and thus having 20 shares, to introduce another ten into the company. This was mutually agreed upon and the following was the result.

Tristram Coffin,	associated	Nathaniel Starbuck
Thomas Macy	"	Edward Starbuck
Richard Swain	"	Thomas Look
John Swain	"	Thomas Coleman
Thomas Barnard	"	Robert Barnard
Peter Coffin	"	James Coffin
Christopher Hussey	"	Robert Pike
Stephen Greenleaf	"	Tristram Coffin Junr
William Pile		Clues Hussey
Thomas Mayhew	"	John Smith

Most of the latter ten came and settled on the island, of whom we will now speak, and for the others there were representatives, some of whom will be noticed in due course. *

Edward Starbuck

was among the first settlers of Nantucket. He was a man of great firmness, and his influence over the Indians was so great, that if at any time a suspicion or alarm arose among the early settlers, he was always in requisition to explain the apparent causes thereof, and to suggest a palliative for their rude and inexplicable antics, which served to allay the fears of the more timid. His wife's name was Catharine Reynolds. He died 4th of 12th Mo. 1690 - aged 86. From them, all of the name of Starbuck descend. Their children were —

Nathaniel	married —	Mary Coffin daughter of Tristram Senr
Dorcas	"	William Gayer
Sarah	"	~~Benjamin~~ Joseph Austin
Abigail	"	Peter Coffin, son of Tristram Senr
Esther	"	Humphrey Barney

Jethro was killed by a cart running over him 27th May, 1663.

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was the son of Edward. He married Mary, daughter of Tristram Coffin Senr previous to their coming to Nantucket, and their daughter Mary born 30th March 1663 was the first English child of whom there is any record on Nantucket. Her mother was one of the most conspicuous women of that day, and this characteristic was so fully admitted that it has become proverbial. She was not originally a member of the Society of Friends, but was enrolled as such in the early organization of that body upon Nantucket, being then somewhat advanced in life, and she afterward became a minister, highly approved "both in word and doctrine". In the 5th Mo. 1704 Thomas Story visited the island. We can extract but a single sentence from his journal, although there are several interesting allusions to this individual - viz - "There was on this island, one Nathaniel Starbuck, whose wife was a wise, discreet woman, well read in Scripture, and not attached unto any sect, but in great reputation throughout the island for her knowledge in matters of religion, and an Oracle among them on that account; in so much that they would not do anything without her advice and consent therein". We have a letter in her own hand writing, which she addressed to her grandaughter Elizabeth Gorham, then living on the Continent, and whose dwelling house had just previously been destroyed by fire. The family here had packed provisions, clothing, bedding &c. to go by one Captain Stuart to their relief, and this letter accompanied the packages. The first and last paragraphs thereof we will subjoin. viz -

Nantucket ye 17 : 1 Mo: 1714/15

Dear Child E. G.

"These few lines may certify thee that thou art often in my remembrance, with thy dear husband and children, with breathings to the Lord for you, that His presence may be with you; that therein you may find peace, in all your visitations and trials. I should

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have been glad if thy husband had come over with Stuart. I hope we shall see him this summer, if not both of you. So with my kind love to thee and to thy husband, children, and to all friends, committing you to the protection of the Almighty, who is the wise Disposer of all things, I remain thy affectionate Grandmother

Thy Grandfathers love is to you all." Mary Starbuck"

Mary Starbuck was in the practice of attending the meetings of the proprietors, and taking a part in the deliberations. She was often consulted by them, and her judgment was always appreciated by all who knew her. The children of Nathaniel and Mary Starbuck were -

Mary -	married -	James Gardner son of Richard Senr
Elizabeth	"	Peter Coffin Junr and Nathaniel Barnard Junr.
Nathaniel	"	Dinah Coffin daughter of James
Jethro	"	Dorcas Gayer " " William
Eunice	"	George Gardner son of John Senr
Priscilla	"	John Coleman Junr
Hepsibeth	"	Thomas Hathaway of Dartmouth.
Barnabas	"	Did not marry
Anna } Paul }	Died young	

Nathaniel Starbuck died 6th of 6 Mo 1719 - aged 83.

Mary Starbuck died 13th of 9 Mo 1717 in her 74th year.

The family of which we are now speaking, were generally connected with the society of friends, either as members or as attendants upon their meetings. There was an exception however in the wife of George Gardner. She was as tenacious ~~of~~ her Presbyterian peculiarities, as were her brother Nathaniel Starbuck and his wife ~~of~~ those which characterized them in the religious society to which they were attached. We have no reason to believe that these differences of opinion had the least tendency to disturb their family harmony, or to interrupt the kindest reciprocity of fraternal-

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affection. But they would sometimes indulge in a pleasant pass at each other. Eunice Gardner lived to the great age of and she continued in the use of the high crowned Presbyterian cap, which was as distinguishing a badge of the matrons of that sect, as were the peculiar hat and dress of the Quaker of his. On one occassion her brother Nathaniel said to her — Eunice dost thou expect to be buried in that cap? She instantly replied with as much complacency — "Nathaniel do you expect to be buried in your hat"? (He was in the practice of wearing his hat even within doors.) We see by the above that there was in the minds of that brother and sister, in that day, the same idolatry of dress, and the same regard to forms which have marked every intervening period down to the time in which we are making the record of the foregoing. The husband of Eunice Gardner, was the son of John Senr, and many of that particular family were in sympathy with the Presbyterian Society.

Thomas Lock

married Elizabeth, daughter of George Bunker, and after residing at Nantucket a number of years, he removed to Martha's Vineyard. Their children were principally daughters, four of whom were born at Nantucket from 1672 to 1680.

His daughter Experience married her first cousin Stephen Coffin Junr, grandson of Tristram. She was a gifted woman, and the character of her husband may be estimated, by the complimentary enquiry which was made in their day, "which of the two was the superior man, Stephen Coffin or Eleazer Folger"?

There are a number of descendants from Thomas Lock on Nantucket, under different names, besides those who descend from Stephen Coffin and Experience Lock.

Thomas Coleman

It is not known at what time he came to Nantucket. According to "Jethro Coffin's History of Newbury", he originally came from Wiltshire, England in 1635. His first wife ~~Katharine~~ Susanna ——— died 17th Nov. 1650. He removed from Newbury to Hampton, & married Mary widow of Edmund Johnson 11 July 1651, who died in Hampton 30th Jan. 1663. His third wife was Margery.

The following children were by the first wife – viz –

~~Benjamin~~ ~~Married~~

Joseph Married Ann Bunker, daughter of Geo. Sen.

Isaac was lost between Mt. Vnyard & Nantucket in 1669 aged 21

~~Joanna~~ ~~Married~~

John " Joanna Folger daughter of Peter Sen.

By his last wife there was one son

Tobias Married –

Tobias removed from the island & took his family with him. Joseph had but one son, & he was drowned in his boyhood. It may therefore be considered that all of the name of Coleman descend from Thomas by his son John.

Thomas Coleman died in 1685 aged 83 years.

Stephen Hussey,

son of Christopher, of whom we have heretofore spoken, in the absence of his Father, assumed his Father's interest, & may therefore be considered as an original Proprietor. In this view, we introduce him here. He married Martha Bunker, daughter of ~~Mr.~~ George Senr., Octr 8th, 1676. We have, already, given an extract from Thomas Story's Journal, in which he is named in connection with John Swain Senr. His wife is also particularly alluded to in that Journal as a "rigid & ignorant Presbyterian", & the singular interview which followed the meeting the Friend ~~xxx~~ had at their house, is described. The opinion which Story then formed of Martha Hussey was unfavorable; although in the conclusion of his remarks, he says "new life springing in her soul, she became very gentle, loving & sweet spirited, & would have us stay longer".

So great a change was afterwards wrought, that she became a member of the Society of Friends.

Their Children were

Prella	Married	Shubael Gorham of Barnstable
Abigail	—— " ——	Thomas Howes
Sylvanus	— " —	Abial Brown - grandaughter of John Gardner & Hepsibeth Starbuck Daugr Nath. Senr
Batchelor	- " —	Abigail Hale
Daniel	"	
Mary	—— " ——	Jonathan Worth son of John Senr & Ebenr
George	—— " —	Barnard son of Nath. Senr
		Eliza. Starbuck daugr Nath. Junr
Theodate	" —	James Johnson -

Stephen Hussey died 2d of 2 mo 1718
Martha " " 21 9 " 1744 aged near 88

All of the name of Hussey, descend from the above Stephen & Martha.

Their daughter Abigail was born the 22d Decr 1679, & she became the wife of Thomas Howes of Yarmouth the 5th of March,

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Robert Barnard

~~Robert Barnard~~ was a brother of Thomas and came to the island early in the settlement. He married Joanna Harvey, and left no son. His only son John married Bethia, daughter of Peter Folger the 26th of Feby 2^d ~~2mo~~. 1668. On the 6th of June ~~6th mo~~. 1669, they were returning from the Vineyard whither they had been in pursuit of furniture, in company with Eleazer Folger Senr, Isaac Coleman, son of Thomas, and an Indian; when the canoe upset, and all perished except Eleazer Folger. He clung to the boat, till in crossing a shoal where he could reach the bottom, he succeeded in uprighting it. With a ploughshare which was fastened to it, he managed to free it from the water. His sufferings and fatigue had been such, that sleep now overcame him, and on waking he found the canoe had drifted on to Morris' island. It was then that he realized how great had been his preservation, and that he alone was left to tell the story of the sufferings through which himself and his less favored companions had passed. William Worth has the following record – "John Barnard and Bethia his wife and Isaac Coleman, ended their days the 6th of June 1669. At the same time Eleazer Folger was wonderfully preserved. Passing in a canoe between this island and the Vineyard".

James Coffin was the son of Tristram Senr to whom allusion has been made in noticing the family of his father. He married Mary Severance, and as we have before said twelve of their fourteen children married as follows.

Mary – married – Richard ~~Gardner~~ Pinkham and James Gardner son of Richard Senr

Dinah " Nathaniel Starbuck Junr

Abigail " Nathaniel Gardner son of Richard Senr

* James Lottin died July 28th. 1720 aged 80 years.

Deborah married Geo. Bunker son of William
Nathaniel " Damaris Gayer daughter of William
James " 1st wife Love Gardner " Richd Senr
2d " Ruth Gardner " John Senr
John " Hope Gardner " Richd Senr
Elizabeth " Jonathan Bunker son of William & her 2d husband Thomas Clark.
Ruth " Joseph Gardner son of Richd Junr
Ebenezer " Eleanor Barnard daughter of Nathl Senr
Joseph " Bethia May " Thomas Senr
Benjamin "
Jonathan " Hepsabeth Harker
Experience "

James Coffin died July 28th. 1720, aged 80 years.

The three remaining associate Proprietors, Robert Pike, Tristram Coffin Junr & John Smith did not settle on the island, & their interest passed into the hands of others. As a further addition of practical men was desirable, it was determined to make another subdivision of the 20 shares. In order to effect this, seven shares were added in fourteen parts, which were taken in the following proportions — viz —

	half shares		
John Bishop	2	—	1659
Peter Folger & his son Elias^r	2	—	1662
William Worth — — —	1	—	1662
Thomas May — — —	1	—	1662/3 S. Barnard's Book says 1663
Joseph Coleman — —	1	—	1665
Richard Gardner — — —	2	—	1666
Samuel Streeter — —	1	—	1667
Joseph Gardner son of Rich^d	1	—	1667
Nathaniel Wyer — — —	½	—	1667
John Gardner — — —	1	—	1672
Nathaniel Holland —	1	—	1672
William Worth — —	½	—	1674
	14 half shares.		

Thus the island was divided into 27 shares, & this division became permanent.

Some of the foregoing have already been named, & we will now proceed to notice the others.

we find little or no record, & it may be concluded, that if he ever came to the island to reside, his continuance was short.

Peter Folger

Of whom Cotton Mather speaks "as a pious & learned Englishman", has been named as the interpreter for Tristram Coffin Senr, when he first visited Nantucket. He was the only child of John Folger, whose wife was Meribah Gibbs, & came from Norwich, England, a widower, in 1635, having his residence at some time thereafter, at Martha's Vineyard. Peter married Mary Morrell in 1644, having bought her of Hugh Peters, to whom she owed service, & paid the sum of £20, which he very gallantly declared was the best appropriation of money he had ever made! Their children were two sons & seven daughters; the last of whom, Abiah, was born at Nantucket the 15th. Augt 1667. She was the mother of Doctr Franklin, & her visits to her relatives here, were very frequent even in her old age. During one of her visits, particularly, she was desirous of a bunch of mint from the garden of her deceased father.

The young man whom she inlisted for the service was Thomas Arthur, & on receiving the parcel from his hands, she said to the youth, – "I saw that mint placed by my father, in that garden, three score years ago."

The children of Peter Folger were

Joanna	married	John Coleman,	son of Thomas Senr
Bethia or Beshua	"	John Barnard	" Robert Senr
Bethsheba	"	John Pope	of Boston
Eleazer	"	Sarah Gardner	daugt – Richard Senr
John	"	Mary Barnard	" Nathaniel Senr
Dorcas	"	Joseph Pratt.	

Patience married 1st Eben^r Hacker; 2^d James Gardner, son Richd Senr
Experience " " John Swain Junr.
Abiah " " Josiah Franklin.
Peter Holger died 1690 aged 72.

The writer has an original letter from Josiah Franklin, dated Boston Octr 17th. 1705, addressed to the Nephew of his wife, Eleazer Holger Junr, giving "some further directions about preparing the rushes for the Chandlers".

Of Eleazer Holger,

the son of Peter, we have already spoken in connection with John Barnard. He was born in 1648. He married in 1671. He was highly esteemed as a man of great firmness & integrity, & in view of his fitness, he filled several important offices, & at the time of his death was a Representative in the General Court in Boston. He died in 1716, aged 68.

The Children were

Eleazer, married 1st. Bethia Gardner daughter of Joseph - 2^d Mary Marshall, " Joseph.
Peter " Judith Coffin " Stephen
Mary " John Arthur
Sarah " Anthony Oder
Nathan " Sarah Church
Daniel & Elisha died young.

Joseph Coleman

was the son of Thomas Coleman. He married Ann Bunker daughter of Geo. Senr. Their only son, Joseph, was born Novr 17th. 1673, & was drowned in his youth. Their only daughter Ann, married Edward Allen, & from this couple all of that name descend.

William Worth

came to Nantucket in 1662. He was the son of John Worth, & with others of his family left England during the troubles consequent upon the Revolution, which resulted in the establishment of the Commonwealth. His father was a Royalist, & his life was sacrificed in defending Plymouth Fort. His oldest brother John was killed at the same time. William himself, when he was but a youth, was attached to a National Ship of war, & when in that situation, his fidelity was so fully acknowledged, that when any duty was required ~~of him~~ which demanded a faithful execution, he was so often in requisition by the inferior officers, that the Commandant interposed his authority, by the expostulation — "Why do you call so often on Wm Worth? Let him have some rest".

He was always ready where he could be useful, & hence he did not avail himself of the means which his position afforded, to gather for himself any thing beyond a necessary provision; & when he looked around him in his declining years, & beheld his increasing descendants, the kindness of his nature led him somewhat to reflect on himself, that he had not made greater provision for ~~them~~ his descendants.

~~Reflection has on the often ill effect of property upon posterity, & how important that the energy of children should be called out by adverse circumstances.~~

During the time between William's leaving England and his coming to Nantucket he was employed in navigation and it was with a view to his nautical experience that the proprietors offered him a half share of land to settle among them. The deed of Conveyance which was written by Tristram Coffin Senr is still preserved with other Manuscripts executed at that early period. It is as follows. "July 20th 1662.

"These presents do witness that we whose names are under written do give and grant unto William Worth, sailor, half a share of land and meadow, and wood, and timber and all manner of privileges and appertenances thereunto belonging upon the island of Nantucket, both house lots and all other divisions of lands, meadows, wood, timber, and commonages to said half, as much as any one of the twenty first purchasers have, both in plantation and patent right; to him the aforesaid William Worth his heirs and assigns forever, upon condition that he pay his proportions of all charges of purchasing of the patent and Indian right, and all other necessary charges concerning the English right. And also to come and dwell on the island and to employ himself or be employed on sea affairs for himself, or such person or persons as are inhabitants on the island, or any of the purchasers, at such seasons as are convenient; and for such hire as we shall agree on, which shall be according to reason; and not to leave the island for three years from after the date hereof.

John Swain
Thomas Macy
the mark R. Richard Swain

Thomas Mayhew
Tristram Coffin Senr for myself and five shares more being empowered.

Married 2d wife
Death of W. Hall
aged above 4 years
Had not assigned Dower

The mark B. Robert Barnard
Thomas Coleman
Mark B John Bishop
John Rolfe
Edward Starbuck

John Smith
Peter Coffin
Stephen Greenleaf
Tristram Coffin Junr
William Pile for two shares.
Nathaniel Starbuck

Feb 20th 1739/40 Received and recorded in the old book page 8th.
Per E. Folger Register.

(It will be observed that there was an interim of 77 years between the execution, & the record of the foregoing.)

William Worth ~~was a young man when he came~~ was a young man when he came to the island, and for a long series of years, from his active and peculiar temperament ~~xx~~ rendered himself a very useful auxiliary in the community with which he was associated. As Justice of the Peace he was principal in the administration of the marriage ceremonial and the certificates thereof in his own manuscript are very numerous. In the notice of Thomas Macy's emigration the fears of his daughter Sarah were described. She became the wife of William Worth, and his record thereof is as follows. "William Worth and Sarah Macy were married the 11th of April 1665". This was the first marriage on record among the English ~~inhabitants~~ resident. The two first marriages which he solemnized, and of which he makes record as such, are those of Nathaniel Coffin and Damaris Gayer the 17th of 8th Mo. 1692, and Jethro Starbuck and Dorcas Gayer 6th of 10th Mo 1694; and the last was that of Jeremiah Coleman and Sarah Pratt the 20th of 11th Mo. 1714/15. His wife died in 1701. When a comparison was made at one time between her and Mary Starbuck, the wife of Nathaniel Sen. of whom we ~~shall speak hereafter~~ have already spoken, the concurrent testimony of those best acquainted with each of them, was, "that the ~~xx~~ latter ~~xxx~~ was equal to the ~~latter~~ former in all respects." We say this not to detract from the unquestionable ability of Mary Starbuck, but as an act

* William Worth married for his second wife, Damaris Sibley of Salem. He died at an advanced age in 1723. His widow died in 1745

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of justice to her cotemporary, whose more secluded position in society, rendered her less an object of general admiration. ✕

John Worth

was the only child of William and Sarah Worth. He was born the 19th of May 1666, and married Miriam the daughter of Richard Gardner Sen. 22nd September 1684, being in his 19th year. By this marriage there were 5 sons and 2 daughters. Viz.

Jonathan	Married.	Mary Hussey daughter of Stephen
Nathaniel	"	at the Vineyard
Judith	"	John Macy Jun. ~~son of Thomas~~
Richard	"	Sarah Hoag.
William	"	Mary Butler daughter of Thomas
Joseph	"	Lydia Gorham " " Shubael
Mary	"	Thomas Crosby

His wife died near to 1700. After this he removed to the Vineyard where he continued to the end of his life. There he married his second and third wives. By the third marriage there were one son and two daughters. The first children excepting Nathaniel resided at Nantucket.

From John Worth descend, all of that name, both at Nantucket & the Vineyard.

John Gardner & his brother Richard

came about ~~the time~~ they took their half shares of land. The ~~former~~ latter was an active agent in procuring the dismemberment of Nantucket from New York, that it might be attached to Massachusetts. This was not effected till 1693, 1692 or five years after his death. ~~With him originated what is called the "Crooked Record", & the "Gardners burying ground" in the~~

See D. H. Hancock's Notes for Rucker

original allotment was designed for his own family, but subsequently, by other assignments it became a public burial place. If he was not the first, he was among the first that found a final resting place therein. He died in 1688. He married Sarah Shattock, & there were several children prior to their removal to Nantucket. Their family consisted of four sons & four daughters - viz

Joseph	Married	Bethia May	Daughter of Thomas Senr
Richard	"	Mary Austin	" " Benj"
Nathaniel	"	Abigail Coffin	" " James Senr
Deborah	"	John May Son of Thomas Senr	
James	"	Mary Starbuck	" " Nathl Senr
Miriam	"	John Worth	Son " William
Sarah	"	Eliazer Folger Senr	
Hope	"	John Coffin	Son of James Senr
Love	"	James Coffin Junr	

Richard Gardner died Jan 23 - 1688/9

~~Most of the name of Gardner on Nantucket descend from John & Richard.~~

His wife was the sister of Samuel Shattock, of whose effective labors in behalf of the persecuted Quakers much might be said, if it were appropriate in the present place, and we have reason to believe that she was a member of the society of Friends at the time Thomas Story limits the number to John Swain Senr and Stephen Hussey. The allusion which Thomas Story makes in his journal at that time and which is copied into the History of Nantucket in the following words - "1704-5 mo. "At our landing we went up to the house of the widow Mary Gardner &c", is undoubtedly incorrect, inasmuch as there was no widow Mary Gardner at that time. It must have been Sarah Gardner who so kindly received him. This estimable woman lived

See S. N. Smith's Notes for Richard

2d wife Rachel Brown, daughter of John Gardner, 3d Patience Hatch daughter of Peter Folger. 4th Mary Pinkham daughter of James Coffin.

to the advanced age of four score and ten years and upwards, and she was one of the very few who could say — "Arise daughter and go to thy daughter &c"

John Gardner

To be filled

Of Samuel Shrector

little has been handed down to us. We find in the manuscript of Wm. Worth, the following record. "Samuel Shrector was lost with Richard Arey about the 19th of Novr 1669".

Joseph Gardner

was the son of Richard Senr. He married Bethia Macy daughter of Thomas Macy 1st. March 30th, 1670. By this marriage there were ~~six~~ seven daughters. ~~As only six of Joseph Gardner and one only son of Joseph Gardner were drowned in their youth.~~ viz —

Sarah married Joseph Paddack
Damaris " Stephen Barnard son of Nathaniel
Bethia " Eliazer Folger Junr
Mary " Matthew Jenkins
Hope " Peter Coffin, son of John
Abial " William Clasby Senr

One daughter did not marry, & an only son was drowned in his youth.

Nathaniel Dyer

and Sarah his wife came to the island about the year 1667, and the grants of

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land as above was made jointly to himself and wife in view of her ability and skill, which in the absence of the regular physician, rendered her service so indespensable in the early settlement of the island. In this situation she ~~rendered~~ made herself eminently useful, and the success which attended her practice is one of the most conclusive evidences that the efforts which are now ~~[illegible]~~ being made for the medical instruction of ~~females~~ women, cannot fail to produce the most favorable results. The absence of the men on their whaling voyages, left a care and responsibility on the women, which called forth all their energies, and hence their uncommon ability even in the greatest ~~[illegible]~~ emergency, to overcome every difficulty which the circumstances of that early period imposed upon them. They were ever alive to the calls of duty, and benevolence, and most efficient in their appliances to the sick and distressed, acting in the double capacity of nurses and physicians. For a series of years the principal duties connected therewith rested entirely upon the women, and "such was their ability that more confidence was placed in their skill, than in the knowledge of men professionally ~~engaged~~ educated. Many of the people then lived to a very long age, as will be seen in the records which are embraced herein."

The time of ~~Mary~~ Sarah Coyer's death is not known. Her husband died March 1st 1680/81. Their daughter Mary as we have before said was the wife of John Swain Senr.

Nathaniel Holland

was among the early settlers, but we know nothing of any descendant at the present time. In the record of William Coffin we find the following "Samuel the son of Nathaniel Holland was born the 6th of Feby 1671.

We have now taken a cursory view of the original proprietors of Nantucket. Some of these in the very early settlement disposed of their interest, so that those who at first had but a single share, increased it to two, and Nathaniel Starbuck Senr at one time represented three shares, having ~~[illegible]~~ derived theirs from the following

* We have two original letters of William Gayer to his daughter Damaris Coffin who was then resident ~~at the parish~~ in Boston, the one dated April 23d, ~~1709~~ & the other Aug 9th 1709 which we are careful to preserve as ~~the two cases before the [illegible] & the discriminating, [illegible] & [illegible]~~ specimens of good penmanship.

sources. viz –

His own right – – 1

Bought of Stephen Greenleaf his brother in law 1.

From his father Edward Starbuck – $\frac{1}{3}$

He disposed of these in the following manner.

To his daughter Mary James Gardner's wife – – 1/2 share

" " " Elizabeth. Peter Coffin's wife 1/2

" " son Nathaniel 1

" " " Jethro $\frac{10}{16}$

" " " Barnabas $\frac{6}{16}$

Nathaniel Starbuck Junr

married Dinah Coffin daughter of James, ~~and Peter Coffin's daughter of William Jack~~ being first-cousins, and Peter and Elizabeth Coffin were cousins by both parents. In the early settlement such inter marriages were very frequent.

The early settlers generally built on the Northern and central part of the island, on the special grants of land which had been made at different times, being not far from the washing pond, so called, and extending to the South and East.

The records at this early period were imperfect and in some cases very illegible, and yet there were among the inhabitants, those, whose manuscript will compare favorably with that of a later period. Of this character is a manuscript record by William Worth ~~beginning in 1662 and continuing~~ already alluded to. At a somewhat later period William Gayer, of whom we shall speak hereafter, was an educated man, and his signature to an agreement in 1682 is well executed, as were also the signatures ~~and~~ of Richard Swain, son of Richard Senr, Richard Pinkham, Eleazer Folger Senr and Joseph Coleman*. ~~xxxxxxxxx~~

It must however be conceded that the farmers, the fishermen, the artisans &c of that day had neither the time nor the means to secure an education for their children. The accounts were kept without a Day book, and

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~~the~~ Leger, with marks and characters on the barn door, by a piece of chalk, which in many cases ~~containing~~ embraced the year's accounts; but such was the general confidence, and such the willingness in each one to accommodate the other, that a constant interchange of the necessaries of life on the one hand, and a borrowing and lending of these on the other, produced a reciprocal obligation, which has rendered the brotherhood of that day proverbial, and which was continued for a long series of years.

There is scarcely another place where the inhabitants were so much one family, as in the early settlement of this, and hence the readiness with which any little difference was settled by arbitration, without expense, and more to the satisfaction of the parties than it could have been by recourse to law.

Farming and fishing were the principal occupations of the Colony at this early period, and in both these occupations the neighboring Indians participated. It was always the policy of the English settlers to afford to these every facility for the comfortable maintenance of themselves and their families, and whenever the former through sickness or other casualties were unable to plough and plant their allotments of land, the latter always assisted in the work. The Indians in return maintained a friendly intercourse with the whites, and in their general deportment they were respectful and obliging. They had been in the practice of fishing from the shores with a very clumsy apparatus, previous to the emigration of their white neighbors, and it was the first care of these to instruct them in the improved manner practised by Europeans, which the natives readily adopted. The Indians were in perfect admiration when they first saw the plough in operation, and so great was their interest herein, that they would walk after it for hours together, in wonder at what seemed to them its magical power.

Whaling commenced at a later period, and at its introduction about the year 1672, the Indians were ready to join in this new vocation.

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This did not supersede the Cod fishing, but was collateral with it. After its commencement in boats from the shore, it was prosecuted in small vessels, and the blubber being cut in peices, was placed in bound in bulk, and brought into the harbor that it might be tried on shore.

From this small beginning, a branch of business has extended, which is so important, that it claims and receives the fostering protection of the General Government.

By an ancient record we learn the conditions upon which James Loper was induced to come to the island as a pioneer in the whaling business, and although the record of its progress through this incipient stage is very limited, its success is conclusive, from the fact that in 1690 Ichabod Paddack was induced to come from Cape Cod, with a view to its more extended prosecution.

We have a record of the number of whales obtained in the spring of 1726, being 86, and divided between 28 men. Abisha Folger took six, which was the largest number obtained by any individual. Two others, James Johnson and Shubael Folger obtained five each.

In the early part of our work we have spoken of the causes which led our fathers to Nantucket. It cannot be doubted that among these a love of religious freedom, and a desire to secure that boon, were the most prominent. Still it cannot be denied that in the early settlement, there were some differences of opinion on what is termed religious subjects, at least upon those of a theoretical character.

Peter Folger Senr. of whom we have before spoken, had acted as a missionary among the Indians at Martha's Vineyard, previously to his coming to Nantucket, and his intercourse among them secured to him the knowledge of their language. This acquirement rendered him of great service to the English settlers. He administered the rite of water baptism; but to what extent is not known. Hence the remark of Nathaniel Starbuck Junr. to Hezekiah Cartwright; "In that

A. We cannot pass from this individual without a record of the following incident. If in reference to the principal actor it was rather the freak of a momentary impulse, or the result of ~~xxx~~ excitement produced by an excessive potation, it was to the woman a most fearful adventure & which made such an impression upon her mind as induced a frequent recurrence thereto throughout the family circle. Her grand daughter Catharine Folger gave the following version of it to the writer hereof - viz - about the year 1693 when Mary Coffin was 23 years old, & the mother of two children, the house in which they had already located themselves, was still unfinished. It is that known as the Paul Paddock house & is yet standing. Within a stone's throw of this was that of Eleazer Folger Senr.

Long before the dawn of day, her husband had gone with a boat's crew to the shore, probably to look after whales, leaving his wife in bed on the lower floor, who had taken her two children beside her. John Arthur, son to her widowed sister, Priscilla was at that time an ~~ad~~ inmate of the family. Immediately after her husband had left, she heard a footstep on the floor above which she naturally concluded was that of her nephew & she thereupon called aloud - "John, be careful, dont ~~fall~~ through the closet floor"! In a moment down came an indian, & presented himself from the closet, before her. A light was burning, & he deliberately commenced whetting his knife, avowing his intention "to kill her"! She was so terrified, that but for her children she would have yielded herself in despair, but when he pronounced that "the edge would do" & had thereupon extinguished the light, she sprang from her bed & ran to the door, out of which she flew, but not without feeling the Indian's grasp upon her arm, & in a moment she presented herself at Eleazer Folger's door & calling for "help" "help", "Indian" "Indian", she fell on the floor. They caught enough, instantly to repair to the house, where they caught the Indian, whose basket was beside the outer door, containing among other matters a bottle of rum! He was put in prison from which he subsequently escaped. It was generally considered that at the worst he had no other design than that of plunder, & perhaps nothing beyond what he thought a justifiable surprise, or a piece of fun; but to herself it was an adventure never to be forgotten, & the chill of horror which the events of that night ~~xxx~~ so naturally produced ~~xxx~~ was always an accompaniment, when she recounted them in after years. see B 39 39

pond, Peter Folger, through a blind zeal, dipped my mother all under water". Again, the adherent to Presbyterianism is heard to say "I hope to live long enough to see a Minister ordained". This was Mary, the wife of Jethro Coffin, and daughter of John Gardner Senr, who died the 27th of 10th Mo 1767 at the advanced age of 97 years 4 Mos. and 20 days. The likeness of this venerable woman, painted when she was about 40, is now held in estimation by her descendants, and as a relic of olden times is certainly a valuable memento. (See A. opposite page)

B. Among the first emigrants there were but two or three members of the society of friends or Quakers, and there was no organized body of this denomination till in 1708. Somewhat prior to this, meetings for worship had been regularly held, and these had been visited from time to time by some of the most distinguished ministers of that society, principally from the mother country. Earlier than this we can say but little upon these matters. The record is not to be found, and tradition, even, has transmitted only a circumscribed page. But it is natural to suppose that those, who had so common an interest as that of our forefathers, were tolerant toward each other, at least in every thing of a speculative nature, and that the kindly feelings which were universally prevalent in that infant colony, induced a spontaneous recognition of the undeniable axiom that — "Religion is a life, and not a Creed".

Very soon after the establishment of the Monthly meetings of friends, that body made a minute upon slavery "~~[illegible]~~", which is among the first, if not the first testimony of which there is any record in that society. The following is a copy.

26th day of ye 9th mo. 1716

An epistle from the last Quarterly Meeting was read in this, and ye matter referred to this meeting, viz: whether it is agreeable to truth for friends to purchase slaves and keep them term of life, was considered, and ye sense and judgment of this meeting is, that it is not agreeable to truth for friends

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Nathaniel Starbuck junr is to draw out this meeting's judgment concerning friends not buying slaves and keeping them term of life, and send it to the next Quarterly Meeting, and to sign it in ~~ye~~ meetings behalf."

Some friends in that day held slaves themselves, and it was not till many years afterwards, that a prohibitory discipline was enacted.

Having introduced all the original proprietors we will now pass to other individuals who filled a prominent place in the early history of the island. Of these was

William Gayer,

who came to the island early in its settlement, and the house which he built (partly with his own hands) was finished sometime between 1665 and 70. That house remained till within a few years, when it was taken down, and the excellent frame of native oak was in such preservation that it was convertible in the re-construction which took the place of the former. (The character of the native oak of Nantucket was most enduring, and its preservation in the ancient houses which still remain, is entire.) William Gayer became acquainted ~~with~~ the family of Edward Starbuck in which he afterwards married, previous to their removal hither; he being at that time surveyor of lumber for the kings ship yard, in which service he had been engaged in England, previous to his emigration to Massachusetts. After this acquaintance, and previous to his marriage, he returned to England, with a view of settling his business there, and it was probably about this time, that Edward Starbuck's family removed to the island. On his return, he found that the latter had removed to Nantucket, and in due time he followed, where he married Dorcas Starbuck, but at what precise time is not known. The first-seed of their family by William Gayer is - "Damaris the

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daughter of William Gayer was born the 24th of Octr 1675" She married Nathaniel, son of James Coffin Senr 17th of 8th mo. 1692. Her sister Dorcas married Jethro son of Nathaniel Starbuck Senr on the 6th of 10th Mo 1694; the two couples being first-cousins.

For the number of years which was their allotment, and for the disposition to render that life available for the good of those around them, these sisters were justly distinguished. They were conspicuous members of the society of Friends, and filled important places in that association of ~~that lady~~ christian professors. It was said of them in that day, that, "they always exercised a sound judgment, and did the right-thing at the right-time".

Damaris Coffin died 9th of 6th Mo 1764 aged 90 years and 11 mos.

Dorcas Starbuck died 9th of 10 Mo 1747 aged 72 years.

William Gayer Junr

married his cousin Elizabeth Gayer in England, where he died in 1713, leaving no child. His widow survived him, to whom he left a large estate by Will, dated 9th of Novr 1712, in which he bequeathed many legacies, and among these, One thousand pounds, severally to his two sisters, above named. He also bequeathed to them equally all his interest on Nantucket, in the general item - "What-by any kind of right or title belongs to me in New England".

In our notice of Nathaniel Gardner Senr, we have spoken of his death in England in 1713. It was the same year in which his kinsman William Gayer Junr died. Nathaniel was on a visit to the latter, at the time he was preparing his will, when among other kind enquiries in relation to his family and friends in this country, William named Abigail Fitch, originally Coffin, one who had been the friend of his youth, with a view of ascertaining the circumstances in which she was then placed. On learning that her

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husband had been unfortunate in business, he generously directed a legacy of One hundred pounds sterling, for her use. These legacies it appears were all punctually paid, either in a desirable assortment of English Merchandise, or in cash. The wife of William Gayer Senr died about 1700, and her husband married the widow Maria Gardner in Boston, for his second wife. He survived her, and his death occurred the 23d of 7th Mo 1710.

Gethro Slocum

was the son of Nathaniel Senr, and grandson of Edward. He died on the 12th of 8th Mo. 1770 aged 98 years and 8 months. He was the eldest native English child that has ever lived on Nantucket. He retained his mental and physical powers in his latter years in a remarkable degree. The year before his death, at a time when Ruth Gardner the wife of Nathaniel, called at his house, she found him in his garden gathering currants, and in his plain out-spoken manner, he alluded to a conversation they had had together eleven years previously, and recalled with the vigor of youth, the different

and they felt the obligation ~~that~~ which rested upon them, that "the rain of innocent blood which had been spened in the Kings dominions", should not have ~~been~~ run like a river, and have been expended for naught.

In that meeting house were some of the choicest spirits, perhaps, which were ever congregated in a "Temple made with mens hands", and their influence was felt, far and wide! "Then there was a great commencement, and a great gathering to the ~~Everlasting~~ standard of everlasting truth and righteousness, not "according to the letter which killeth, but according to the spirit which giveth life", and the Divine overshadowing was felt and acknowledge by all." In this life and in this power, a testimony which is heretofore appended, page 39 & 40 was issued against an enmity which was then tolerated even in the society of friends; for some of

opinions they then entertained upon the subject in discussion, which the lapse of years had not modified; and concluded his settled convictions thereupon, by the significant expression — "Ah! but the end is not yet."

The subject to which they referred, was one that had claimed the attention of the religious society of which they were valuable members, and as it was one of a deeply interesting character, it needed great circumspection. Brotherly feeling was generally preserved in the Body, and all were prepared to rejoice at its favorable termination.

The writer has an interesting view, ~~in imagination~~ as it has descended (traditionally) of the interior as well as the exterior of the ancient meeting house in which the friends worshipped in the early part of the 18th. century; and at the time of which we are speaking, of the relative position ~~in which~~ of each prominent individual ~~was placed~~ ~~while worshipping~~ therein. It was not for that generation to say "other men have labored, and we have entered into their labors". No, they felt that they themselves had a work to do, ~~themselves~~, and their devotion to that work was equal to the occasion which called it forth. That society was ~~just~~ then emerging from one of the most severe conflicts through which a persecuted and condemned sect or people can ever pass. ~~Their sufferings and trials~~ These had suffered all the tortures which religious bigotry and intolerance could invent; and they felt the obligation ~~that~~ which rested upon them, that "the vein of innocent blood which had been opened in the Kings dominions", should not have ~~been~~ run like a river, and have been expended for naught.

In that meeting house were some of the choicest spirits, perhaps, which were ever congregated in a "Temple made with mens hands", and their influence was felt, far and wide! "Then there was a great convincement, and a great gathering to the ~~Everlasting~~ standard of Everlasting truth and righteousness, not "according to the letter which killeth, but according to the spirit which giveth life", and the Divine overshadowing was felt and acknowledge by all." In this life and in this power, a testimony which is heretofore appended, page 39 & 40 was issued against an enormity which was then tolerated even in the society of friends; for some of

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its members ~~that body~~ in other parts of the continent continued to hold slaves for a series of years thereafter. The record which that body made in that day, is among the very first which was made by any ~~body~~ association of professing christians. Let it be spoken for the friends of Nantucket ~~that day~~, for the descendants of Tristram Coffin, Thomas Macy, Edward Starbuck, Richard Gardner, John Swain, Stephen Hussey, Nathaniel Barnard, Thomas Coleman, Peter Folger, William North, William Gayer, &c. that their enlightened vision penetrated the dark hiding places of slavery, and placed a verdict of reprobation upon a system which, in our day (1851) after a lapse of 135 years, is so far tolerated and baptised even by professing christendom, that tens of thousands of its chrished and bleeding victims are held as property, and in some cases as church property, to be bought and sold in the shambles, even as the brutes and beasts that perish!!

Not only did the meeting in its associated capacity act herein, but individual members from time to time exerted their influence, even at the risk of their reputation, in some portions of the society, for the entire abolition of slavery within its borders. Among other valuable documents, we have an original Testimony by Elihu Coleman, written in 1729/30 in his own manuscript and before us, which for argument and discrimination, even in this day of boasted advancement, will compare favorably with any ~~of the productions~~ which it has produced. He was then about 30 years of age. This Testimony was printed in 1733. The Preface, addressed "To the Reader", abounds in so much which is excellent, that we cannot forbear to give it entire, as indicative of the character of this ancient forefather, and devoted servant, while we shall make but an extract or two from the work itself, and we shall give it, just as it was originally written by his own hand, barely correcting the orthography. This manuscript is one of the most valuable relics that we now have in our possession. It is entitled "A Testimony against that anti-christian practice of making slaves of men. Wherein it is showed to be contrary to the dispensation of the law and time of the Gospel. And very

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opposite both to grace and nature". We will proceed with the

"Preface to the Reader".

"Before I speak of the unlawfulness of this practice of making slaves, it is in my mind to give a relation how and after what manner I came to understand it so, and why and for what reason I now speak against it. After I had arrived to the years of a man, I was very desirous that I might come to know the Lord for myself; for although I did believe I was educated or taught the right way, yet upon serious consideration I came to see, that the Religion of a man's education, was not the Religion of his, but of them that educated him. And therefore I was very desirous to know him for myself, for I read in Scripture, that when destruction came upon the City, that if Daniel, Noah, and Job were in it, they by their Righteousness could save none but their own souls. And although I might live in the midst of a Righteous people, I saw that it would not avail anything to me. And as I was thus concerned, it pleased the Lord in his own time to manifest himself to me in some small degree and measure. So that then I could decern things aright in some degree, and after I had considered of the principles of those my friends called Quakers, I did, and now do believe, that they are undeniable, and that those that keep close to them, I do believe that there can never any weapon be formed that shall prevail against them. And as I considered hereon, I found a necessity in myself to join with those people whose principles were so good. Yet notwithstanding I must confess, and for that reason I now write, that as I knew a necessity to join with them in that which was good, So the same necessity I now find to speak against that which is Evil, although it may be in some of them, for the Lord made me sensible in that convincing day, that he would not allow of sin although it might be in Jacob, and that transgression in Israel should not go unpunished, and that he would yet again search Jerusalem as with candles, and bring to light the hidden things of dishonesty.

And now although some may think it hard to have this practice spoken against

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that has been carried on so long pretty much in silence, I may let such know, that I have found it hard also to write against it; nevertheless, believing it to be my duty so to do, I have written according to the understanding I have had thereof, and although I have written but little, and in a very plain way, yet I hope that those remarks I have made therein, may serve as a text for some to preach to themselves upon. I am not unthoughtful of the ferment or storm, that such discourse as this may make among some, who like Demetrius of old, may say, "by this craft, we have our wealth", and so caused the people to cry out with one voice saying, "great is Diana of the Ephesians whom all Asia and the world worshippeth", therefore leaving such to worship what they will, I will also say that there are many sober men that have spoken against this practice, both by writing and in their public assemblies whom I could name, but choosing to be brief, I will only observe to the reader what I myself have observed, and that is, that those people that dwell nearest the truth and are most engaged in it; and that are most concerned for the spreading of it than any thing in this world beside, cannot allow of this practice, for they seeing it to be oppression and cruelty.

Now I having spoken something of the reason why I have written this, I will conclude this my preface, wishing the reader an impartial judgment".

An extract from the Testimony itself will conclude this part of our work; viz — "Now I can truly say, that this practice of making slaves of men, appears to be so great an evil to me, that for all the riches & glory of this world, I would not be guilty of so great a sin as this seems to be. Now if many among those called Christians would but consider, how far they fall short of the Turks in this particular, it would be well; for they tell the negroes, that they must believe in Christ, and receive the Christian faith, and that they must receive the sacrament, and be baptized, and so they do; but still they keep them slaves for all this".

John and Priscilla Coleman

the parents of Elihu Coleman, about this time were by some means owners of two slaves (children) whom for conscience sake they were unable keep in their family.

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Fifty-three years after the foregoing, he addressed a Fathers advice to his Children and Grand-Children", being then in his 84th year, the original of which, as we compare it with his testimony against slavery, is an evidence of very great advancement, so far as concerns the mechanical execution, from which we can give only a single paragraph - viz - "I have attended meetings constantly for more than three score years, when in health, here; as well as visited the meetings of Friends in seven Governments in the service of Truth, and in our Government and Rhode-Island, many times over, as some of you may well remember; and I have had good satisfaction in so doing as my friends whom I visited, as well as their Certificates make manifest; which they gave me".

We have other original productions of Elihu Coleman, in all of which the active spirit of the Devoted Christian is conspicuous. Among these are several Elegies - One written in 1762. "On the death of that worthy friend, Priscilla Coleman, deceased, widow of John Coleman, late of Sherburne on the island of Nantucket; who departed this life on the 14th of 3d Mo. 1762". Another "on the death &c &c of that worthy friend Nathaniel Coleman, deceased the 17th of 5th Mo 1783 in the 86th year of his age.

The above were his mother and brother.

And still another "on the death &c of Dorcas Starbuck, deceased &c the 11th of 10th Mo. 1747".

Elihu Coleman died 24th of 1st Mo 1789 in the 90th year of his age.

His father and mother John Coleman Junr & Priscilla Starbuck also lived to a very great age, and no couple perhaps, were united together for so long a period as they. Their first-child being born the 7th of 10th Mo 1695 after which they both lived 67 years. He was nine years older than his wife. The latter often expressed in their advanced years the strong desire she had to survive her.

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husband; but from no other feeling than that of sustaining him in the ordinary conflict of extreme old age; and this boon was meted to her as the reward of her devotion. She survived him six weeks. Their death was in the early part of 1762, he being in his 95th. and she in her 86th. year.

He was one of the most industrious of men. It is told of him, that in harvest time his exertions were so great, that he would get in his large harvest of corn, continuously, from day to day, allowing himself very little time for sleep.

At the time of his engagement in marriage, the family from whom he took his wife was, in point of property and standing, among the first on the island, and with reference to the former, there was perhaps a disparity between the couple. There was no particular objection however, either on this or on any other account to the union, and yet her brother Nathaniel Starbuck Junr., on one occasion said to her, "What will you do for a house? You have no house to live in! She was as ready with the answer - "We will have a house by and bye." In due time they married, and afterwards in recalling the interview between herself and her brother, she said to a friend - "that the year after they married, her husband raised 300 bushels of corn, and the next year we built a house as large as brother Nathaniels".

Later in life she had occasion to speak of "the bountiful supply of every thing necessary which had been her allotment through a long pilgrimage", and, we may say, of which she was the liberal dispenser to others, and her generosity and kindness at the annual sheep shearing have been proverbial, from the fact of her providing so much on that occasion, that even the boys who passed their house, which was in the neighborhood of the shearing, were made the welcome partakers of her bounty.

In this connection we will remark that a house was generally provided for each son, previous to his marriage, except for the youngest, who as generally settled in the homestead with the parents or parent, and at their death, it became his inheritance. It must be remembered that at the

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period of which we are speaking the eldest-son invariably had a double portion in the division of estate.

The aged couple of whom we have spoken above were favored to enjoy uninterrupted health. We might almost say that they were never sick, and hence no Doctor ever presented himself within their peaceful and happy domain, nor did either medicine or drugs disturb the natural current of their life, which ~~ran on~~ flowed naturally on to the end. ~~continued succession of health~~, and at last when the time of his departure approached, he yielded ~~that~~ his life without the penalty either of a pain or struggle; he merely ceased to be! There was a significance, truly, in the view which one of our mothers took, when she said to her husband, "Thou had better purchase that right of Dover at once, for the widow belongs to the Coleman and Starbuck family, and she'll live a century!"

Nathaniel Gardner Senr

has already been named, incidentally, in recounting some biographical incidents, but the place he filled and the character he sustained demand of us a more particular notice. He was the son of Richard Gardner Senr and his marriage has been named. He was not originally a member of the Society of friends, but it is probable he was one of those who constituted the meeting for worship, prior to the establishment of the monthly meeting in 1708. We have an original letter which he addressed to his brother in law Nathaniel Starbuck Junr, dated "Burlington ye 21st of ye 7mo 1710, just after the yearly meeting of Philadelphia had concluded in that place, in which he says, "I feel willing to give thee an account of our prosperous journey, being attended with the presence of our God, greatly to our satisfaction and comfort, and I have no cause to repent of my undertaking in this matter. xxxx We have thought of returning homeward in ten days or a fortnight, that is John Tucker, Ruth Smith and myself. The yearly meeting hath been large and hath been attended with the living presence of God, by which

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many living testimonies hath been borne, greatly to our satisfaction in general, both to hearers and speakers". He was among the latter, and was there on a religious concern. The letter is written in a very legible hand, and gives evidence of deep thought and feeling. In one part he expresses his desire to be at home before winter on account of the circumstances of his family. His wife died on the 15th of the 3d mo. of the preceding year, which accounts for the foregoing expression, growing out of the care which he felt for his family of nine children, three of whom were then under ten years of age. The above letter is among the most interesting relics of that day, which we have in our possession; and hence its introduction here. He was again called to leave his orphan children very soon thereafter, on a religious visit to Great Britain, where he died, while in the prosecution, in 1713.